



# friendship force Southwest florida

## Newsletter February & March 2016

Our Website [www.friendshipforceswfl.org](http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org)

### Celebrate World Friendship Day



*Do you know that March 1 is World Friendship Day, the anniversary of the Friendship Force's founding?*

On this day in 1977, U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced our

organization to all the state governors at a special White House dinner.

Our club is celebrating by having an international foods **pot luck** along with a short general meeting. All that is required is for you to bring a dish to pass. Perhaps it is a recipe that you learned to make from one of your exchanges - or a family or ethnic food favorite. Please make a label for your dish and be prepared to tell us what your dish means to you. It will be fun to see how many different countries' cuisines are represented!

Date is **Sunday, March 6, 3 p.m.**, in the party room of Susan Beaudry's condo located at 4260 SE 20th Place, Cape Coral. We'll have a short general meeting and you'll also hear last minute

### Friendship Force

#### Mission

*To promote global understanding across barriers that separate people*

#### Values

*Mutual Respect Cultural Diversity Cultural Exploration Service*

#### Tell Your Friends

*Your friends and the public are always welcome at our meetings. Keep your friends informed about our happenings by forwarding this newsletter to them.*

### Elected Board (voting members)

#### President

Sue Linehan

#### 1st VP

Michelle Kemps

#### 2nd VP

Beverly Harmon

announcements about the incoming group from Belgium. Don't miss it!

## Coming Up Soon



*White Water Rafting in Costa Rica*

Check out the picture above - *can you guess who is White Water Rafting on our Costa Rica Exchange?* Here are Elin, her friend Jane, Jonnie, Joanne & Richard getting bounced around on the Sarapiqui River!

**Hold the date!** Mark your calendar for **Friday, April 8, 11 a.m., Fort Myers NORTH Library, 2001 N Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers, FL 33903 (new location!).**

We are preparing a fun slide show showing our terrific exchange to Turrialba, Costa Rica. By the way, while we were visiting Costa Rica, the Alejuela Club also tracked us down and hosted us for a lunch party. It was quite a trip! Please join us and hear all about it.

## It's time to welcome Belgium Ambassadors!

**Mark your calendar for March 8 - 13. *The Belgians are coming!***

Our incoming Exchange Director (ED), Dennis Yemma, is planning a fun-filled exchange for our guests. It is our hope that you will attend the Welcoming Pizza Party on March 9 and some of the other events. It is free for the hosts and **only a \$5 charge per person** for club members. Just picture the Yemmas' special pizza **melting in your mouth** as you are surrounded by these wonderful ambassadors. Learn all about their country and make new friends.



*Yummy pizza,*

### **Treasurer**

Cathy Cobb

### **Secretary**

Carol Berry

### **Non-voting Board**

#### **Membership/Publicity**

Need volunteer

#### **ED Coordination**

Lou Rizk

#### **Email, Club Roster, Sunshine**

Cheryle Phelps

#### **Historian**

Carla Harms

#### **Webmaster, Club**

#### **Photographer**

Richard Collins

#### **Parliamentarian**

Jody Garmon

#### **Newsletter**

Joanne Collins

#### **Programs/Fundraising**

Entire Board



Here's the tentative itinerary:

*a Dennis & Jule specialty*

**March 8**, late night arrival. Meet at Yemmas' house to pick up your guest *unless you live in the Punta Gorda area*. Joanne will pick up those guests and set a pick-up point in Punta Gorda.

**March 9**, Meet at ECHO, at 10:15, cost for our members \$10. Immediately following ECHO is the Welcome Party. The Yemmas will provide all the food and drink so no one has to bring anything.

**March 10**, Meeting with the Mayor of Ft. Myers 10:15, Lunch at Prime de Leon, afternoon free time for exploring river district or shopping or .....

**March 11**, Babcock Ranch Wilderness tour 10:30 followed by picnic lunch at the ranch. Cost is \$19. Afternoon visit to Manatee Park parking \$2-\$5.

**March 12**, Edison Ford Estates, gardens, and museum. Lunch on the Estate grounds. Full admission \$30, lunch only \$15.

**March 13**, Beach day at Bowditch, Ft. Myers Beach, picnic lunch, beach shopping optional. Farewell Dinner at Judy Carson's Meeting Room - time to be determined

**March 14**, In the morning, hand off Belgians to the Sarasota Friendship Force Club (exact location in Punta Gorda to be determined).



*Marie Paul, Belgian Club President & ED*



*Belgian Coast Club Flag*

## It's a Match!



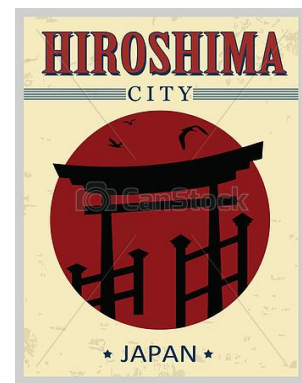
We recently heard from Friendship Force International in Atlanta that in **2017** we have matched with two clubs in Canada - **Stratford-St Mary** and **Haliburton Highlands**, Ontario. According to their website, Stratford-St Mary says "Few places in Ontario are lovelier or more alive with culture and character than Stratford. It is a charming city nestled in pastoral countryside in Southwestern Ontario. Stratford Shakespeare Festival is North America's largest classical repertory theatre, presenting the works of William Shakespeare and other great writers in its idyllic setting on the Avon

River. Nine miles southwest is St. Marys, a charming small town, with many limestone buildings and houses, situated on the Thames River and Trout Creek. Its limestone deposits led to the development of a very well known Canadian cement company, St. Marys Cement. It boasts Canada's largest outdoor swimming pool, the Quarry."

The second club, Haliburton Highlands is a larger club (~ 75 members). They say "Our June/September exchanges begin with a welcome party and usually include the following elements: boat trip on one of our lakes, tour of the local artisan studios, trip to the Wolf Centre and the Fish Hatchery, and a walk along one of our trails through the woods." We received word that this is a **"cooperative exchange"** with the **Tbilisi Club** in the country of **Georgia**. Current suggested date is June 2017.

**But there is more news!** Regarding our international incoming exchange, the club of Hiroshima, Japan has been approved to visit us in March 2017. Members of our club visited them about 3 years ago. It will be great to return their wonderful hospitality.

Stay tuned for more information as the details develop.



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## President's comments



***It is time to start our planning for 2017 exchange dates!***

It looks like the Canada clubs want us to visit in late May or early June. I have not heard what Hiroshima desires for a date, but I have told them that summer won't work. It will likely depend if they are working on adding another club to their scheduled time here.

We are penciled in to visit Denver, Colorado and possibly Lincoln, Nebraska in October. Both clubs are waiting to see when FFI schedules the international conference. England is the 2017 destination which is usually held the

fall.

I would like to see as many members as possible at our March 6th World Friendship Force Day Pot Luck and meeting as I would like to discuss how many people might be interested in our 2017 outbound exchanges to see if there is a good chance we will fill those spots. I will also be looking for 2017 Exchange Directors for Canada, the domestic exchange, and the incoming exchange from Africa in December 2016. Africa has still not been confirmed, but I hope to have more information for you at the Pot Luck and meeting.

***Please remember to bring a friend!*** This should be a fun event and a great way to introduce new people to FF. Also, come prepared to be **hugged**. We ambassadors had a lot of practice in Costa Rica and it is a good tradition to bring home and make a part of our FF culture. As the Costa Ricans say, "**PURA VIDA!**"

*In Friendship,  
Sue*

## Parting Shot



*It's all about "faces not places!"  
Welcome Party with Turrialba, Costa Rica friends*

## ***Do you like our newsletter?***

Just email Joanne at [eagleswingsj@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleswingsj@yahoo.com) with any suggestions and stories. Hope to hear from you soon!

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**Experience the World with Friendship Force**  
**You can change the world, one friendship at a time!**

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